

RESOLUTION No.

The City of Portland Condemns White Supremacist and Alt-Right Hate Groups (Resolution)

WHEREAS, nationally, there has been a rise of white nationalist, white supremacist and alt-right hate groups, many of which have been emboldened by the words and actions of the current presidential administration; and

WHEREAS, *The New York Times* has cited Eric Kaufmann, a professor at Birkbeck University in London who studies how ethnicity intersects with politics, as providing the following definition of white nationalism: the belief that national identity should be built around white ethnicity, and that white people should therefore maintain both a demographic majority and dominance of the nation's culture and public life; and

WHEREAS, like white supremacy, white nationalism places the interests of white people over those of other racial groups, and is an ideology focused on maintaining white political and economic, as well as demographic, dominance and it is at odds with our commitment to inclusion and multiracial democracy in Portland, Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Constitution states, "No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever; *but every person shall be responsible for the abuse of this right*" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, while free speech is a core principle of American democracy, the agenda of white supremacist and alt-right hate groups seeks to destabilize American democracy, use fear as a control tactic, divide our community, and promote and ignite social animosities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon has a racist governing history including entering the Union as a "whites-only" state," refusal to ratify the 14th and 15th amendment to the United States Constitution, and enacting black exclusion laws; and

WHEREAS, white supremacy groups called for the deportation of Japanese-Americans following Pearl Harbor, leading to government action that resulted in the forced relocation of Japanese-Americans to incarceration camps with deplorable living conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has a racist governing history that has created disparities due to redlining, the displacement of black communities through the construction of Interstate 5 and other projects, the failure to protect and preserve Vanport, and a history of bias in government services, including policing, all of which have led to the gentrification and decimation of historically black neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Portland has a documented history of white supremacist hate groups who have used intimidation and have committed violent repression of individuals in our community; and

WHEREAS, there has been a recent surge of alt-right hate group activity and hostility, here, in our home, conjuring painful memories of our City's past and causing harm to current residents; and

WHEREAS, the trauma inflicted on people of color by white supremacists and alt-right hate groups results in post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological harm affecting educational, economic, and social outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Portland is proud to be a Welcoming City, a Sanctuary City, and an Inclusive City for all; and

WHEREAS, our values are rooted in peace, respect, inclusivity and equity, and we derive our strength from our diversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland now celebrates and embraces our community, which includes people of all races, national origins, immigration or refugee statuses, heritages, cultures, religions, sexes, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, abilities, ages, and economic statuses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland condemns hate groups, xenophobia, racism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, ableism, sexism, and other forms of bigotry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is committed to undoing and eradicating the effects of past systemically racist practices from City Government and all organizations contracted or affiliated with the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is proud to stand united against those who propagate hate and incite fear and violence in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Portland will not tolerate hate in any form and reaffirms its commitment to continue, in collaboration with Portlanders, pursuing policies and directing bureaus in the next year and beyond to ensure civil and human rights to all individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Portland will work with community organizations to develop a training for all City staff on the history and impact of white supremacy, and how to identify white supremacy.

Adopted by the Council:

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Hardesty and Eudaly
Prepared by: Nicole A. Grant, Asena Lawrence
Date Prepared: January 28, 2019

Mary Hull Caballero
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy